

XL2000: How to Use Visual Basic to Create a Dynamic Chart

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SUMMARY

When you record a macro to create a chart, the source address of the cells that you use to create the chart are fixed by Microsoft Excel. This article contains a Visual Basic for Applications macro that you can use to create a chart when the source address that contains the data for the chart varies.

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MORE INFORMATION

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To create and run the macro described in the "Symptoms" section, follow these steps:

1. Type the following information on Sheet1 of a new workbook:

C3:	D3:	Region 1	E3:	Region 2	F3:	Region 3
C4: Jan	D4: 10		E4: 80		F4: 15	
C5: Feb	D5: 20		E5: 70		F5: 25	
C6: Mar	D6: 30		E6: 60		F6: 35	
C7: Apr	D7: 40		E7: 50		F7: 45	

2. Start the Visual Basic Editor (press ALT+F11).
3. Click **Module** on the **Insert** menu.
4. Type or paste the following procedure in a module sheet:

```
Sub CreateChart()
    'Create a New Chart
    Charts.Add
    'Change the Chart Type to the type that you want
    ActiveChart.ChartType = xlColumnClustered
    'Sets the Source Data to the Region of data starting with the
    'top left corner C3. This line of code assumes that the
    'region of cells is contiguous - without empty rows or columns.
    ActiveChart.SetSourceData
        Source:=Sheets("Sheet1").Range("C3").CurrentRegion,
        PlotBy:=xlColumns
End Sub
```

5. Return to Excel. On the **Tools** menu, point to **Macro**, and then click **Macros**.
6. Click **CreateChart**, and then click **Run**.

The macro uses the **CurrentRegion** property to find data adjacent to cell C3 on Sheet1 and create a column chart on a new chart sheet.

REFERENCES

For more information about the chart object, in the Visual Basic Editor, click **Microsoft Visual Basic Help** on the **Help** menu, type **chart object** in the Office Assistant or the Answer Wizard, and then click **Search** to view the topic.